

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT[441]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of 2009 Iowa Code Supplement section 29C.20A(2), the Department of Human Services proposes to amend Chapter 58, “Emergency Assistance,” Iowa Administrative Code.

These amendments add a voucher system for the administration of benefits under the Iowa Disaster Aid Individual Assistance Grant Program as directed by the Iowa General Assembly.

Program rules have required that applicants for assistance first purchase the goods or services they need for disaster recovery and then present receipts for reimbursement. This requirement presents a barrier to applicants who have insufficient resources to make the purchases. Issuance of assistance through a purchase voucher to the seller of goods or services will enable applicants to replace or repair items without an initial outlay of funds.

These amendments require the county board of supervisors to designate a local administrative entity to administer a voucher system for issuing state individual disaster assistance to county residents. The designated entity must enter into a contract with the Department for determining eligibility of applicants, issuing vouchers to eligible applicants to purchase needed goods and services, and receiving from the Department reimbursement for the voucher purchases. There is no reimbursement for the administrative expenses of the local administrative entity.

These amendments do not provide for waivers in specified situations. Management of a voucher system for residents of a county affected by a disaster is best achieved locally.

These amendments were also Adopted and Filed Emergency and are published herein as **ARC 9128B**. The purpose of this Notice is to solicit comment on that submission, the subject matter of which is incorporated by reference.

Any interested person may make written comments on the proposed amendments on or before October 26, 2010. Comments should be directed to Mary Ellen Imlau, Bureau of Policy Coordination, Department of Human Services, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114. Comments may be sent by fax to (515)281-4980 or by E-mail to policyanalysis@dhs.state.ia.us.

These amendments are intended to implement 2009 Iowa Code Supplement section 29C.20A as amended by 2010 Iowa Acts, House File 2294.